



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL Agenda Highlights for October 27, 2008

For More Information:

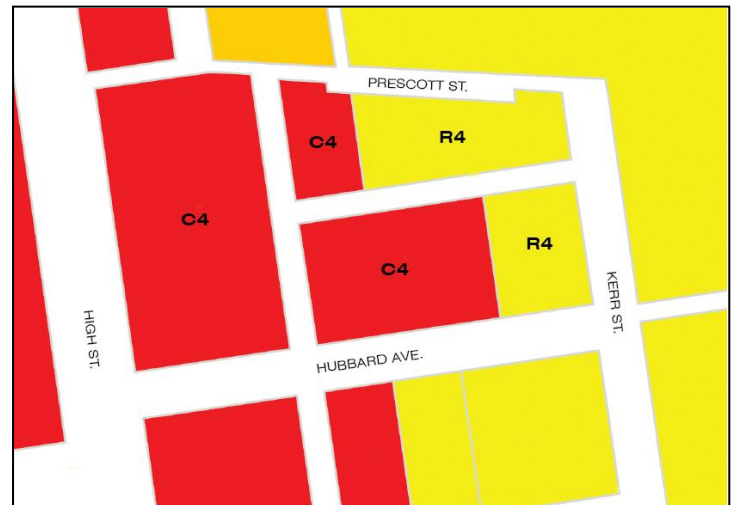
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GINTHER SECURES NEW EARLY WARNING SIRENS: When severe weather strikes, early warning sirens located throughout Columbus can give residents the advanced notice they need to seek shelter. Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 1541-2008*, which authorizes the City to contract with Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security to purchase and install 10 new outdoor warning sirens. This legislation also authorizes the conversion of existing sirens for radio-tone activation, as well as the replacement of sirens that are no longer serviceable or require extensive repairs.

TYSON WORKING TO KEEP COLUMBUS GREEN: *Ordinance 1601-2008*, sponsored by Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#), will ensure Columbus continues its tree planting program. This legislation authorizes the purchase and installation of 1,196 trees in the North Linden and Far East areas. In addition to beautifying the community, research has shown that street trees provide a traffic-calming effect to help make neighborhoods safer and more pedestrian-friendly. The Spring 2009 Street Tree Installation Project was made possible by voter approval of the 1999/2004 Recreation and Parks Bond Funds.

BUILDING STRONGER NEIGHBORHOODS:

Health, Housing & Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring legislation that will create a Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) in the area enclosed by Hubbard Avenue and High Street to help revitalize the neighborhood. *Ordinance 1608-2008* will create the CRA designation, which includes construction of a \$51.5 million multi-story condominium complex planned for the site. The complex will consist of 179 owner-occupied housing units ranging from 580 square feet to 4500 square feet in size, and from \$120,000 to \$1.4 million in cost. Construction of this condominium complex will make use of property that is currently vacant and causing blight in the surrounding area.



SECURE PRISONER TRANSPORT: A tunnel for transporting prisoners will be installed beneath the new county court house currently under construction on the corner of South High and West Mound streets. Public Service and Transportation Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 1625-2008* that will grant Franklin County an easement to construct the 50 foot-wide tunnel. The tunnel will make transporting prisoners between the court house and the existing county complex safer and more secure. Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig is co-sponsoring this legislation.

BOYCE SWEARS IN 2009 YOUTH COMMISSIONERS: The newest members of the Columbus Youth Commission will be sworn in by President Pro Tem [Kevin L. Boyce](#) during tonight's Council Meeting. As the official voice of young people in City government, the Youth Commission advises Council and the Mayor on issues that are important to their generation. The group also plans educational and civic events. Councilmember Boyce sponsored legislation to establish the Columbus Youth Commission in 2001.

CRAIG TO SERVE ON ENTREPRENEUR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL:

TechStart, a component of Ohio's Entrepreneurial Signature Program (ESP), is an initiative intended to increase our region's entrepreneurial success by assisting early stage companies with funding and business planning. Minority and Small Business Development Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) will attend the group's first stakeholder meeting on October 27, 2008 at 11:30 AM at TechColumbus (1275 Kinnear Road). The meeting will offer stakeholders the opportunity to review and comment on implementation of the program to date. Councilmember Craig has been asked to serve on the ESP Advisory Council, which is one of three groups that counsels the TechColumbus board of directors and management.



MENTEL SET TO JOIN NFL PLAYER FOR CHARITABLE DONATION CELEBRATION: City Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) will join Cincinnati Bengals safety Chinedum Ndukwe for a celebration of donations that helped ensure a successful season for the Christian Youth Athletic Association football league. Mr. Ndukwe's donation of \$5,000, which was matched by the NFL Youth Football Fund, helped pay for uniforms and transportation for 300 under-privileged children throughout Columbus who participated in the league. The celebration will take place at 6:15 PM on Tuesday October 28 at the Fedderson Community Center (3911 Dresden Street).

UPCOMING MEETING OF NOTE:

- Recreation and Parks Committee Chair Priscilla R. Tyson will continue the discussion began by President Pro Tem Kevin L. Boyce on the possible update of Columbus' current leash law for dogs. A key component of the discussion has been City Council's strong desire to increase the number of dog parks so dogs are given the opportunity to exercise off leash in an environment that is safe for all those using Columbus parks.